

Migrating Music



Chinese Folk Songs by Zhou Long



ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Zhou Long

周龍

Zhou Long is a Chinese American composer who is famous for creating music that blends the two cultures of East and West. He was born on July 8, 1953 in Beijing, China and began studying piano from an early age. In 1977 he was one of one hundred students chosen from eighteen thousand applicants to study at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where he studied composition. After graduating in 1983, he journeyed to the United States to attend Columbia University to further his composition studies and received a Doctor of Musical Arts in 1993.

Living in Brooklyn, New York, he became the music director of Music From China. Zhou Long has been a citizen of the United States since 1999 and is currently Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. He was awarded the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Music.

Zhou Long composed “Chinese Folk Songs” for string quartet, based on traditional Chinese folk songs.

FOLK MUSIC: the traditional music of a community or region that has been passed down for generations.

Each movement of “Chinese Folk Songs” was inspired by a specific song from Chinese tradition. These songs take one of three main forms: “shan ge” or mountain songs, “hao zi” or working songs, and “xiao diao” or songs for entertainment.

“Jasmine Flower” (Mo Li Hua) is one of the most well-known songs in China, with a sweet melody.

“A Horseherds Mountain Song” is from southern China and its strong rhythmic drive conveys the excitement of the horses.

“A Single Bamboo Can Easily Bend” is about how the power of one person can be small, but a group of people together are much stronger—it starts with the viola playing the melody, like a single bamboo, and then the two violins join and then all four instruments play the melody together and that is the strongest!

MORE INFORMATION

Chinese Folk Songs: <http://www.chinesefolksongs.com>

Zhou Long: <https://global.oup.com/academic/category/arts-and-humanities/sheet-music/composers/zhoulong/?cc=us&lang=en&>



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MARIA
violin 1

HALEY
violin 2

YU-PING
cello

DANIEL
viola

A STRING QUARTET

is an ensemble of four solo strings, traditionally two violins, viola and cello.

THE VIOLIN

is the smallest member of the string instruments and is able to play the highest notes in music. A string quartet has two violins, called "first violin" and "second violin," and they each play a different part.

THE VIOLA

looks very similar to a violin but it is slightly larger, and so it gives a sound that is slightly lower. It usually plays notes that are lower than the second violin but higher than the cello.

THE CELLO

has the same shape as the violin and viola, but it is too big to be held under the chin! It is the largest instrument of the string quartet and so it can play the lowest notes of all the instruments in the quartet.

All the musicians use a bow to make the strings on their instrument vibrate. Bows are made of hair from a horse's tail!

MEET THE STRING QUARTET MUSICIANS ON PAGE 3 AND THEY WILL TELL YOU WHY THEY LOVE MUSIC!



MARIA ARRUA, VIOLIN 1

"My parents love music. They encouraged my older sister to play the Paraguayan harp, and then my brother started learning the guitar. I learned to love music from them. I knew that I wanted to play a musical instrument but I wasn't sure which one. One day, I watched a violinist performing on TV. It was love at first sight— or sound!

I love the sound of the violin and its capacity to express emotions. Through music I continuously learn important lessons for life. There is always room for improvement. You can do great things alone, but you can do even greater things when you team up with others. For example, in quartet or in orchestra!"

Violinist Maria Arrua leads an active career performing and teaching. She is concertmaster of the Champaign Urbana Symphony Orchestra and also performs with the Elgin and Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestras. She is an Adjunct Instructor at Illinois Wesleyan University, where she teaches violin. Born in Paraguay, Maria began her musical training at the age of ten at the National Conservatory of Music of Paraguay. She holds degrees in Violin Performance from Louisiana State University and Pennsylvania State University and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.



HALEY SCHRICKER, VIOLIN 2

"I started playing violin when I was ten. I was inspired by listening to fiddle playing in old-time music and bluegrass. My favorite part about playing an instrument is that I can express myself and connect with other people, all while doing something creative. There is so much music already out there in

the world, as well as music for string instruments still being written today. I had never heard some of these pieces before I had to practice my part to play it for you! To everyone who watches Migrating Music, I hope you enjoy it, and thank you for motivating me to keep learning new things."

Violinist Haley Schricker is a second year master's student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is a member of the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra as well as the University of Illinois Symphony Orchestra, and performs regularly with Sinfonia da Camera. She has performed as a soloist with the Eastman Philharmonia, San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra, the Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Virtuosi USA chamber orchestra in venues in the US and Germany. Haley received her bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music.

YU-PING WU, CELLO

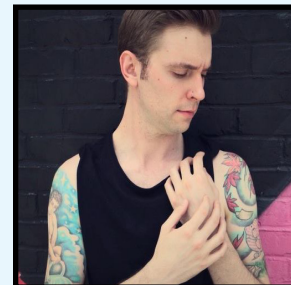
"I started to learn piano when I was five and later cello when I was eight. In kindergarten I overheard other kids having their piano lessons and I was moved by the sound. I remember that I took up my courage to ask my parents if I could take piano lessons. So I think it was those kids who inspired me to be brave to actively pursue something. I love the intimacy and depth of the cello sound! I love finding a personal connection in music and at the same time exploring something that is beyond myself and my experience. I hope you enjoy our videos!"



A native of Taiwan, cellist Yu-Ping Wu is a fellowship recipient and is pursuing his Artist Diploma with Dmitry Kouzov and Daniel McDonough at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He received his Master of Music from Louisiana State University in 2019 and Bachelor of Fine Arts from Taiwan Normal University in 2015, where he studied with Dennis Parker and Lee-Wen Dai. Yu-Ping has performed in the cello section of Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia da Camera Chamber Orchestra, and Baton Rouge Symphony.

DANIEL MCCARTHY, VIOLA

"I was 14 when I started learning the viola. My grandmother was a singer and released an album in Spain before she immigrated to the United States. I think she is the origin of my interest in music! I love the warm, rich, and dark sound of the viola. I've been able to travel the world and perform in many countries and I am so grateful for the many people I've met. What I want my young audience to know is, whatever you are passionate about, go for it!"



American violist and educator Daniel McCarthy has appeared with ensembles throughout North America and Europe. He performs as a violist with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra and Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra. Daniel is a candidate in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he studies under the mentorship of Elizabeth Freivogel, violist of the Jupiter String Quartet. In 2020, Daniel received the Chip Davis/Mannheim Steamroller Orchestra Award and the Achievement Award for the Strings Department. He holds degrees from Boston University, Southern Methodist University, and the Catholic University of America.